GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:260
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
WADHWA COMMITTEE ON PDS
Jha Shri Raghunath;Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had appointed Justice Wadhwa Committee to look into the problems ailing the country`s Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, whether the Committee has since submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken thereon;

(d) whether PDS beneficiaries in some States including West Bengal have represented against corruption in PDS;

(e) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the action taken by the Government to ensure supply of foodgrains to PDS beneficiaries in various States particularly Delhi?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The Committee has submitted report relating to Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in Delhi.

(c): Main recommendations of the Committee are abolition of APL category, identification of BPL & AAY families to check exclusion, elimination of bogus cards, strengthening of Vigilance/Enforcement Wing and Anti-Hoarding Cell, computerisation of PDS operations, establishment of Helpline, introduction of E-banking, distribution of wheat flour on option, creation of independent agency to monitor TPDS, introduction of food coupons, streamlining of FPS licences and payment of reasonable commission to them, increasing awareness among the beneficiaries about the scheme, introduction of Global Positioning System (GPS) for movement of foodgrains consignments, etc. The report has been sent to Government of NCT of Delhi for comments.

(d): Reports have been received about representations of Above Poverty Line (APL) category of PDS beneficiaries against malpractices in TPDS.

(e): Reports received have been sent to the State Government for inquiry and appropriate action.

(f): For strengthening of TPDS and elimination of malpractices under TPDS, a 9-point action plan is under implementation in all States and UTs. A revised Citizens` Charter has been issued in July 2007 to facilitate use of Right to Information Act provisions for increased transparency in working of TPDS.